

**Boulder Library District Advisory Committee (LDAC)
January 6, 2022, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Online**

Meeting Notes

Meeting Objectives:

1. Build agreement on the recommendation - review and revise a recommendation document.
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Public Comment Session – *Each speaker is allowed 2-3 minutes depending on how many people wish to speak.*

No community members present.

Review/Revise Draft LDAC Recommendation Document

The LDAC members reviewed the revised draft LDAC Recommendation document, starting with the community engagement section (LDAC's first discussion on this section).

Section 3: Community Engagement

The timeframe for the City's community engagement is likely to be March to May, 2022. Community engagement will start after City Council has decided whether to move forward with establishing a library district, and end before the Library District (if formed) puts a funding measure on the ballot. After the Library District decides to put a measure on the ballot any engagement could be considered electioneering.

Community engagement efforts over the last three years include: eight City Council meetings with two public hearings and three study sessions; two surveys—a statistically valid phone poll, and an online poll; focus groups; community meetings, including meetings in Niwot and unincorporated Gunbarrel; an independent survey; and formation of a library district has been discussed at all Library Commission meetings, which are open to the public. There were also Spanish speaking focus groups where childcare was provided, and the survey received higher than typical response rate from Spanish speakers.

Discussion

- The time frame for public engagement is more likely to be April to May.
- LDAC does not recommend that the City engage in additional polls or focus groups.
- Suggestion: Recommend the City do three things:
 1. Community information sessions (drop-in open houses in community venues). Conduct public conversations, drop-in open houses about why a library district is being proposed, what is being proposed, and the process for how the decision will be made. These sessions should be informal, include a lot of visuals, and have staff and LDAC members available to answer questions.
 2. Outreach to unincorporated County residents. Collaborate with the County on outreach (they have expressed a willingness to help) and use the County's regular communication mechanisms (i.e., newsletter). Allow/allocate time for library staff to help with outreach to unincorporated areas.

3. Empower library staff to talk about the library district proposal. Library patrons are most likely to ask existing staff for information. Coach the library staff on how to communicate information without advocating or electioneering.
- Conduct outreach to businesses because they pay a higher property tax (compared with residential property tax). Start with the Boulder Chamber of Commerce.
 - Develop clear messaging on the main motivators for the formation of a library district.
 - Communicate about what services the Library provides beyond books; the public does not know the library provides many services beyond books.
 - The term “marginalized” in the “Community Engagement” section of the LDAC recommendations document isn’t strong enough; this recommendation is about reaching people intentionally excluded, and those unintentionally excluded.
 - Suggestion: Revise the “engage...voters...on how current library fund may be reallocated...”, recommend the Council commit to a robust public engagement process on how existing library funds which will be freed up if a library district is passed will be spent.
 - Is the LDAC recommending City Council commit to an engagement process (have a plan) or commit to conduct an engagement process before the ballot measure?
 - Conduct it - Some voters will want to know how those funds will be spent before deciding whether to support a ballot measure to fund a library district.
 - Commit to a plan - It is difficult for staff or council to commit current funds allocated to the Library until after the ballot measure passes.
 - Commit to a plan - There is not enough time to conduct a robust engagement process on this issue before the ballot measure.
 - Suggestion: Commit to a plan for a robust public process and add a recommendation that council commit to eliminate the .333 mill levy dedicated to the library when a library district is funded. Committing to eliminate the .333 mill levy would give voters some information about how existing funds would be reallocated.

AGREEMENTS:

- **Section 1.B Library Services to Provide** – Add language about the other services levels the LDAC considered.
- **Section 1.C Mill Levy**
 - Keep the bullet point about the “mill levy needs to generate enough funds for a sustainably financed library”.
 - Edit the bullet on what the mill levy would fund to more clearly call out that during LDAC considerations of how assets would transfer it became clear that grounds and parking maintenance were not considered in the 2018 financial analysis and budget.
- **Section 2.B Concepts to include in a common-interest agreement...**
 - Do not prioritize the list, leave “(in no priority order)”.
 - Do not add “as a goal” to the bullet on “equal partnership regarding the Main Library area of influence”.
 - Combine two bullets: the “...recognize and continue to support...community desire the have a main library downtown” bullet and the “...recognize... the Main Library’s role within downtown...” bullet.
 - Delete the bullet “...recognize the importance of educational, health, cultural and....” – this doesn’t really fit here.
 - Remove the term “consent” from the “site approval” bullet.
- **Section 2.D Incorporation of Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan** – Move the recommendation about social equity to the top of the list to make it stronger.
- **Section 2.E Library District Board of Trustees** – Revise the reason why seven members was chosen, the draft reads like having seven will guarantee diversity, it won’t.
- **Section 3 Other Recommendations** – *no additional recommendations were suggested.*
- **Section 4 Community Engagement**
 - Revise the “reaches out to all...” bullet, add “excluded” after “marginalized”.
 - Revise the bullet on engaging voters to recommend that City Council commit to a robust engagement process on how existing library funds will be spent, commit to a process (not conduct the engagement) prior to the ballot measure election.
 - Add a recommendation to eliminate the existing .333 mill levy for library services if the ballot measure passes.
 - Add the recommendations to: 1. conduct community information sessions, 2. collaborate with the County to do outreach to unincorporated County residents, and 3. empower library staff to answer questions about the proposal, without advocating.
 - Add a recommendation that the City Council hurry up and do the engagement as soon as possible to help the community understand what they are voting on.

Decide Who will Represent LDAC at the City Council Study Session on the LDAC Recommendation

Three members were nominated Joni Teter, Joanna Rosenblum, and Alicia Seidle. Joni and Joanna accepted the role at the meeting. Alicia accepted the role follow the meeting (she was not in attendance).

Next Steps

- LDAC Recommendation Document
 - Facilitator and staff will revise the document based on agreements from this meeting and send to the LDAC on Tuesday.
 - LDAC will review the draft and, if possible, send edits/comments by noon Wednesday.
- Next LDAC meetings
 - January 12 (W) Final Meeting

APPENDIX A: Attendees

LCAC MEMBERS

	Name		Name
	Alicia Seidle	X	Joanna Rosenblum
X	Annette Dula	X	Joni Teter
X	Cara Schenkel	X	Kevin Miller
X	Chip	X	Michelle Denae Garcia-Morrissey
	Deborah Read Fowler	X	Miho Shida
X	Jane Sykes Wilson		Peter Pollock

Boulder Public Library (BPL), City of Boulder (COB), Contractors

Organization	Staff
BPL	David Farnan, Jennifer Phares
COB	Janet Michels
Facilitator	Jody Erikson, JSE Associates

Public/Others

Name – Organization or Interest group		

APPENDIX B: Agenda

Boulder Library District Advisory Committee (LDAC)

January 6, 2022; 6:00-9:00 p.m., Online

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. Build agreement on recommendation - review and revised a recommendation document
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6:00 Welcome, agenda overview

6:05 Public Comment Session – If interested in speaking please sign up with staff before the meeting starts (name, community, topic to comment on). Each speaker will be allowed 2-3 minutes depending on how many people wish to speak.

6:20 LDAC Member introductions

7:15 DISCUSSION: Review/revise Draft LDAC Recommendation Document

- Community Engagement
- Revised additional common-interest community agreement concepts - Site agreement
- Revised additional bullet for references New – Comp. Plan - Equity statement
- Any new suggested edits

8:45 DISCUSSION: How/who will represent LDAC at City Council mtgs on the LDAC recommendation (Feb 8 or 22) – *all LDAC can attend as public, but who will be spokes people*

8:50 Next Steps

- Next LDAC meetings
 - January 12 (W) Final Meeting on LDAC recommendation

9:00 Adjourn